

# COMMISSION ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIANA

*Annual Report*

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

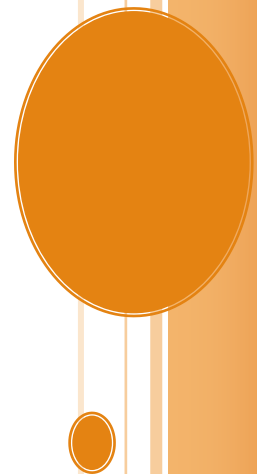


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary..... 1

Members..... 2

About the Commission.....3

Website.....4

Priorities.....6

Mission and Vision.....6

Organizational Model.....7-8

Meetings..... 9

Task Forces.....10-17

## *Executive Summary*

Legislation establishing the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC) went into effect on July 1, 2013. This 18-member Commission consists of leadership from all three branches of government. The CISC is charged with studying and evaluating services for vulnerable youth, promoting information sharing and best practices, and reviewing and making recommendations concerning pending legislation.

In its inaugural year, the CISC identified priorities to help guide the work of the CISC, established the mission and vision, adopted an organizational model, issued report of findings and recommendations, launched a website, and formed task forces.

---

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

---

JULY 1, 2013-JUNE 30, 2014

- ✓ Identified priorities
- ✓ Developed the mission and vision of the CISC
- ✓ Adopted an organizational model
- ✓ Issued Report of Findings and Recommendations regarding topics assigned to the CISC by Legislative Council Resolution 13-01
- ✓ Launched the CISC website
- ✓ Established task forces

# Commission on improving the status of children in Indiana

## Members

**Brian Bailey**

Director  
Indiana State Budget Agency

**Mary Beth Bonaventura**

Director  
Indiana Department of Child Services

**Mike Dempsey**

Executive Director  
Indiana Department of Correction, Division  
of Youth Services

**Sen. Travis Holdman**

District 19

**Lilia Judson**

Executive Director  
Indiana Supreme Court, Division of State  
Court Administration

**Rep. Rebecca Kubacki**

District 22

**Sen. Tim Lanane**

District 22

**Larry Landis**

Executive Director  
Indiana Public Defender Council

**Susan Lightfoot**

Chief Probation Officer  
Henry County Probation Department

**Debra Minott**

Secretary  
Family and Social Services Administration

**Kevin Moore**

Director  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction

**David Powell**

Executive Director  
Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

**Rep. Gail Riecken**

District 77

**Glenda Ritz**

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Hon. Loretta Rush**

Indiana Supreme Court

**Ryan Streeter**

Senior Policy Director  
Office of the Governor

**Dr. William VanNess II, M.D.**

Indiana State Health Commissioner

**Gregory Zoeller**

Indiana Attorney

## *ABOUT THE COMMISSION*

Governor Pence signed Senate Enrolled Act 125-2013 into law on April 30, 2013. This legislation established the eighteen (18) member Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC) [IC 2-5-36-9].

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- (1) One (1) legislative member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (2) One (1) legislative member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
- (3) One (1) legislative member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.
- (4) One (1) legislative member appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
- (5) The superintendent of public instruction.
- (6) The director of the department of child services.
- (7) One (1) judge or justice with experience in juvenile law appointed by the chief justice of Indiana to serve on the commission for a period of four (4) years.
- (8) The executive director of the prosecuting attorneys council of Indiana.
- (9) The executive director of the public defender council of Indiana.
- (10) The secretary of family and social services.
- (11) The state health commissioner.
- (12) The director of the department of correction division of youth services.
- (13) One (1) representative of the juvenile probation system, appointed by the chief justice of Indiana for a period of four (4) years.
- (14) The director of the office of management and budget, or the director of the state budget agency, as selected by the governor.
- (15) A member of the governor's staff, to be appointed by the governor.
- (16) The executive director of the division of state court administration.
- (17) The director of the division of mental health and addiction.
- (18) The attorney general, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

### **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

A child served by:

- (A) the department of child services;
- (B) the office of the secretary of family and social services;
- (C) the department of correction; or
- (D) a juvenile probation department.

## **CISC DUTIES**

- (1) Study and evaluate the following:
  - (A) Access to services for vulnerable youth.
  - (B) Availability of services for vulnerable youth.
  - (C) Duplication of services for vulnerable youth.
  - (D) Funding of services available for vulnerable youth.
  - (E) Barriers to service for vulnerable youth.
  - (F) Communication and cooperation by agencies concerning vulnerable youth.
  - (G) Implementation of programs or laws concerning vulnerable youth.
  - (H) The consolidation of existing entities that serve vulnerable youth.
  - (I) Data from state agencies relevant to evaluating progress, targeting efforts, and demonstrating outcomes.
- (2) Review and make recommendations concerning pending legislation.
- (3) Promote information sharing concerning vulnerable youth across the state.
- (4) Promote best practices, policies, and programs.
- (5) Cooperate with:
  - (A) other child focused commissions;
  - (B) the judicial branch of government;
  - (C) the executive branch of government;
  - (D) stakeholders; and
  - (E) members of the community.
- (6) Submit a report not later than July 1 of each year regarding the commission's work during the previous year. The report shall be submitted to the legislative council, the governor, and the chief justice of Indiana. The report to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

The CISC may also:

- (1) Request information or a presentation from an agency involved with vulnerable youth.
- (2) Request and review outcome data from an agency related to vulnerable youth.
- (3) Receive information from experts concerning vulnerable youth.

## Website

In December 2013, The CISC launched its permanent website: <http://www.in.gov/children>. All CISC meetings are webcast live on the website. Meeting agendas, minutes, PowerPoint presentations, handouts and other resources are posted on the website.



---

## *Priorities*

---

- Increase availability of and access to quality mental health services for children
- Address foster care system reforms
- Improve healthcare access
- Improve educational outcomes
- Expand juvenile justice reform
- Increase substance abuse treatment and prevention services
- Improve data sharing, communication and collaboration across agencies and systems serving children and youth
- Address gaps in service array across priority issues, with particular emphasis on geographic disparities
- Increase public awareness
- Address child fatalities

---

## *Mission and Vision*

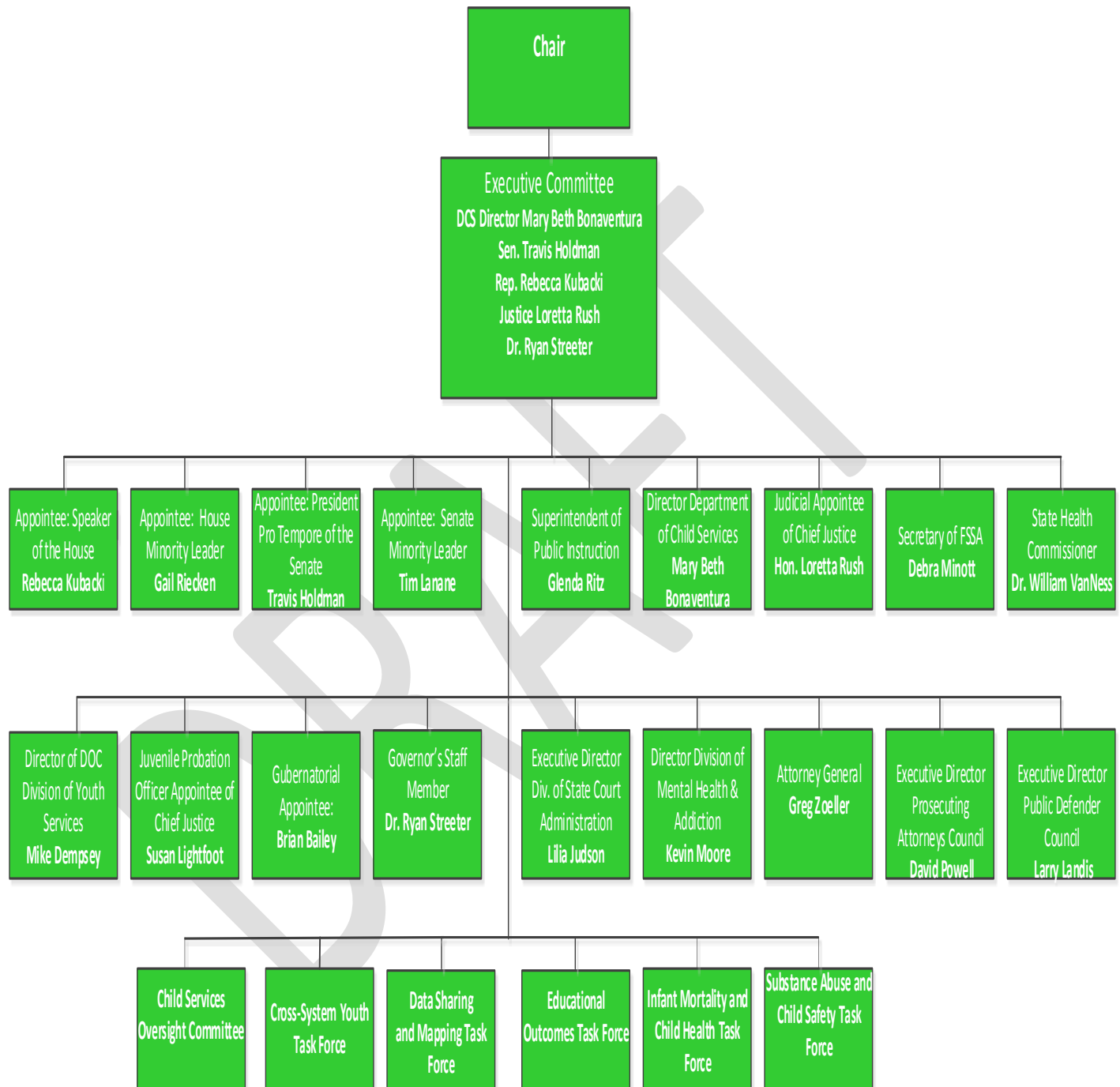
---

**Mission:** To improve the status of children in Indiana.

**Vision:** Every child in Indiana will have a safe and nurturing environment and be afforded opportunities to grow into a healthy and productive adult.



# COMMISSION ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIANA



## Organizational Model

The organizational model adopted by the CISC consists of a chairperson, an executive committee, commission members, and task forces. Justice Loretta Rush chaired the CISC in 2013. The legislative branch chairs the CISC in 2014 followed by the executive branch in 2015.

### Executive Committee

A five member Executive Committee consisting of the three rotating chairs and two at-large members was established to plan for continuity and to maintain the effectiveness of the CISC. Members of the Executive Committee serve as a liaison on one or more task forces. The members of the Executive Committee are:

- **Mary Beth Bonaventura**, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services
- **Sen. Travis Holdman**, District 19
- **Rep. Rebecca Kubacki**, District 22
- **Hon. Loretta Rush**, Indiana Supreme Court
- **Dr. Ryan Streeter**, Senior Policy Director, Office of the Governor.

The Executive Committee meets monthly, except during the legislative session when it meets bi-weekly. The Executive Committee met on the following dates.

2013	2014
November 19	January 14
December 18	January 30
	February 11
	February 25
	March 11
	April 15
	May 21

## CISC Meetings

All meetings are held in the Indiana Government Center South Conference Center and are webcast live on the website. The agenda is posted in advance of the meeting, and all materials from the meeting are posted to the website within days of the Commission meeting. Members of the public are always welcome to attend. Public meetings were held on:

2013	2014
August 21 <a href="#">Meeting Material</a>	February 19 <a href="#">Meeting Material</a>
October 16 <a href="#">Meeting Material</a>	May 21 <a href="#">Meeting Material</a>
December 11 <a href="#">Meeting Material</a>	

---

### Meeting Highlights

---

#### August 21, 2013

CISC inaugural meeting.

- The top seven priority issues identified by CISC members through their outreach to stakeholders were reviewed.

#### October 16, 2013

- The Mission and Vision statements were approved.
- The organizational structure for the CISC was adopted.
- Recommendations were made regarding the summer study topics assigned by Legislative Council Resolution 13-01.
  1. SEA 530-addressing problems of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), as follows: 1) whether Indiana should require a photograph of a SNAP recipient on the EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) card; 2) whether Indiana should require a SNAP recipient to show a photo identification issued by a federal, state or local unit when the EBT card is used electronically; and 3) whether Indiana should seek approval to allow the distribution of SNAP benefits on a bimonthly basis. The CISC voted for no action to be taken on these items.
  2. SEA 305. Due process for child care providers. The CISC tabled the issue.
- The Data Sharing and Mapping, and the Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Forces were established.

**December 11, 2013**

- The Cross- System Youth, and the Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Forces were established.
- The Child Services Oversight Committee Report and Recommendations were presented to the CISC.

**February 19, 2014**

- The Child Services Oversight Committee was established as a committee of the CICS.

**May 21, 2014**

- The Educational Outcomes Task Force was established.
- The formal charge of the Child Services Oversight Committee was adopted.

DRAFT

## *Task Forces*

The goals of each task force are to study, deliberate and develop recommendations involving matters assigned by the CISC. The recommendations will be used to help inform the work of the CISC.

- ✦ Child Services Oversight Committee
- ✦ Cross-System Youth Task Force
- ✦ Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force
- ✦ Educational Outcomes Task Force
- ✦ Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force
- ✦ Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force

---

## *Child Services Oversight Committee*

---

**Sen. Carlin Yoder, *chair***

Executive Committee Liaison – Representative Kubacki

[Child Services Oversight Committee Webpage](#)

### Duties

The committee shall meet at least bi-annually to do the following:

- Review bi-annual data reports from the Department of Child Services (DCS).
- Review annual reports from the DCS ombudsman.
- Make recommendations to the Commission on Children.
- Submit an annual report before November 1st to the Commission on Children

### Members

**Mary Beth Bonaventura**, Executive Director, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Jolene Bracale**, Department of Education, Program Coordinator for Student Health; **Sen. John Broden**, **Hon. Christopher Burnham**, Morgan Superior Court 2; **Leslie Dunn**, GAL/CASA, Indiana Supreme Court, Division of State Court Administration; **Larry Landis**, Executive Director, Indiana Public Defender Council; **Rep. Kevin Mahan**; **Sean McCrindle**, Vice President of Program Operations, Bashor Children's Home; Suzanne O'Malley, Prosecuting Attorney Council; **Rep. Gail Riecken**.

Meetings. The Child Services Oversight Committee met on May 8, 2014.

---

## Cross-System Youth Task Force

---

**Hon. Charles Pratt, *co-chair***, Allen Superior Court;  
**Don Travis, *co-chair***, Deputy Director Juvenile Justice Initiatives and Support,  
Indiana Department of Child Services

**Executive Committee Liaison – Justice Rush**

[Cross-System Youth Task Force Webpage](#)

### PRIORITIES

- Continue to expand JDAI and initiatives regarding disproportionate minority contact.
- Increase alternatives to detention for youth with mental health issues.
- Improve transitions for youth from DOC and DCS to other agencies (BDDS, DMHA, etc.) and to their communities, including re-entry to school.
- Improve coordination between probation, mental health, DCS, and DOC on dually adjudicated youth.
- Increase coordination regarding education among DOE, DCS, probation, and school districts for dually adjudicated youth.
- Develop policies and procedures to meet the needs of dually adjudicated youth.

### MEMBERS

**Mary Allen**, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Institute; **Jeffrey Bercovitz**, Director, Juvenile and Family Law, Indiana Judicial Center; **Christine Blessinger**, Assistant Executive Director, Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services; **Rebecca Buhner**, Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Youth Services, Critical Populations and Cultural Competence, FSSA/Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction; **Bruce Carter**, Coordinator of Staff and Student Wellness, MSD of Wayne Township; **Mary L. DePrez**, Director and Counsel for Trial Court Technology, Indiana Supreme Court Division of State Court Administration, Judicial Technology and Automation Committee; **Suzanne Draper**, Vanderburgh County CASA; **Hon. Steve Galvin**, Monroe Circuit Court, Div. 7; **Cathleen Graham**, Executive Director, IARCCA, an Association of Children & Family Services; **Nichole Hall**, Juvenile Probation Supervisor, Bartholomew County Court Services; **JauNae M. Hanger**, WAPLES & HANGER; **Hon. Heather Mollo, *Ex Officio***, Bartholomew Circuit Court; **Kathleen Rusher**, Assistant Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; **Daniel C. Schroeder, Esq.**, Marion County Public Defender Agency, Juvenile Division; **Tiffany Stewart**, DCS Supervisor, Montgomery County; **Commander Randal Taylor**, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department; **Michelle Woodward**, Lawrence County Prosecutor.

Meetings. The Cross-System Task Force met on February 27, April 24, and June 26, 2014.

---

## *Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force*

---

**Lilia Judson, co-chair**, Executive Director, Division of State Court Administration;

**Julie Whitman, co-chair**, Vice President, Programs, Indiana Youth Institute

**Executive Committee Liaison – Justice Rush**

[Data Sharing & Mapping Task Force Webpage](#)

### Priorities

- Identify gaps in the array of mental health services, especially in rural areas.
- Identify gaps in the array of substance abuse services, especially in rural areas.
- Address geographic disparities for treatment resources.
- Implement technology initiatives to improve data collection and create capacity for sharing data for all systems serving children.
- Develop a repository linking all relevant data relating to children in multiple systems—for transparency and accountability.
- Identify barriers associated with confidentiality requirements.

### Members

**Paul Baltzell**, Chief Information Officer, Office of Technology; **Thomas Bodin**, Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Attorney General; **Mary DePrez**, Director of Trial Court Technology, Division of State Court Administration; **Ann Hartman**, Interim Executive Director, Connect2Help; **Kevin Moore**, Director, Division of Mental Health and Addictions; **Sarah Schelle**, Research & Data, Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services; **Dr. Cynthia Smith**, Operations Analyst, Department of Child Services; **Doris Tolliver**, Chief of Staff, Department of Child Services; **Joshua Towns**, Director of Information Technology, Department of Education; **Jeff Tucker**, Deputy/Assistant IT Director, Department of Child Services; **Christopher Waldron**, Director, Public Health Geographics, State Department of Health.

Meetings. The Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force met on November 22, 2013, January 24, March 18, May 7, 2014, and June 9, 2014.



---

## *Educational Outcomes Task Force*

---

**Dr. Susan Lockwood, *chair***, Director of Juvenile Education, Indiana Department of Correction

[Educational Outcomes Task Force Webpage](#)

### Priorities

- Increase school stability and decrease absenteeism.
- Increase the availability of quality early childhood programs and after-school programs.
- Develop a pre-K system in Indiana.
- Increase mental health services in schools, including focus on early identification and intervention.
- Establish education standards in detention facilities.
- Improve the flow of communication between schools and alternative placements, such as detention, group homes, and residential facilities.
- Addressing youth who have been suspended or expelled who are now in detention or in other placement facilities.

### Members

**Dr. J.T. Coopman**, Executive Director, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendent; **Catherine Danyluk**, Director, Office of Student Services, Indiana Department of Education; **Laurie Elliott**, Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana; **Representative Gail Riecken**; **Reba James**, Deputy Director, Permanency and Practice Support, Department of Child Services; **Susan Lightfoot**, Chief Probation Officer, Henry County Probation; **Dr. Robert Marra**, Executive Director of the Office of Charter Schools, Ball State University; **Dr. Marg Mast**, Campus College Chair, College of Education, University of Phoenix; **Hon. Marilyn Moores**, Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division; **Dr. Anita Silverman**, Education Services Director, Department of Child Services; Kaarin Lueck, Wayne County Public Defender's Office.

Meetings. The Educational Outcomes Task Force was established at the May 21, 2014 CISC meeting. The Task Force is scheduled to meet on July 8, 2014.

---

## *Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force*

---

**Jane A. Bisbee, Co-Chair**, Deputy Director for Field Operations, Department of Child Services

**Art Logsdon, Co-Chair**, Deputy Director, Indiana Department of Health

Executive Committee Liaison – Mary Beth Bonaventura

[Infant Mortality and Child Health Webpage](#)

### Priorities

- Improve Medicaid access and coordination for children and youth (state and federal funding).
- Address Medicaid barriers for youth released from detention.
- Increase well-child visits for preventive care/monitoring child development.
- Create policies to improve child health indicators such as infant mortality, obesity, underage smoking/drinking.
- Enforce lead-based paint prevention standards.
- Address Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).
- Identify gaps in the array of infant and child health services, especially in rural areas.
- Address geographic disparities in resources.
- Increase public education on child health policy, especially Medicaid issues.
- Improve public education around Internet safety for children.
- Develop a plan to decrease the high incidence of child fatalities.
- Improve public education/awareness of NAS.

### Members

**Bob Bowman**, Maternal and Child Health Director, Indiana State Department of Health; **Jolene Bracale**, Program Coordinator for Student Health, Indiana Department of Education; **Dr. Ted Danielson**, Medical Director, Indiana State Department of Health; **Morella Dominguez**, Director of Multicultural Affairs, Indiana Minority Health Coalition; **Charles Ford**, Indianapolis EMS; **Spencer Grover**, Indiana Hospital Association; **Andrea Hern**, DMHA Assistant Director; **Kristen Kelley**, Attorney General's Office; **Kelly Moore**, Fatality Team, Department of Child Services; **Jeena Siela**, Maternal and Child Health, Deputy Director, Indiana State Department of Health; **Gilbert Smith**, Assistant Deputy Director of Field Operations, Department of Child Services; **Greg Wilson, M.D.**, Associate Dean, Global and Community Health Professor and Interim Chair, Health Policy and Management, IUPUI.

Meetings. The Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force met on February 3, March 17, and May 19, 2014.

---

## *Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force*

---

### **Senator Randall Head, *Chair***

Executive Committee Liaison – Senator Holdman

[Substance Abuse and Child Safety Webpage](#)

#### Priorities

- Identify gaps in the array of substance abuse services, especially in rural areas.
- Increase the number of mental health and substance abuse service providers trained in evidence-based practices, trauma-informed care, addiction issues, and suicide prevention.
- Increase access to mental health and substance abuse services, regardless of income and/or ability to pay, and identify barriers to receipt of Medicaid.
- Increase access to mental health services for youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Increase access to substance abuse services for youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Address geographic disparities in treatment resources.
- Address teen prescription drug abuse.
- Assess and address gaps in service array and access, with particular emphasis on remedying geographic disparities.

#### Members

**Sirrilla Blackmon**, Deputy Director of Children's Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction; **Cathy J. Boggs**, Executive Director Government and Affiliate Relations, Behavioral Health, Community Health Network; **Suzanne F. Clifford**, Executive Vice President, Behavioral Health, CEO, Gallahue Community Mental Health Center, Community Health Network; **C.J. Davis**, Executive Director, Four County Counseling Center; **Benjamin Evans**, Legislative Director, Professional Licensing Agency; **Mindi Kensinger Goodpaster**, Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY), Director, Public Policy & Advocacy; **Cathleen Graham**, Executive Director, IARCCA, an Association of Children & Family Services; **Carey Haley Wong**, Chief Counsel Child Advocates; **Lt. Kevin Hobson**, Indiana State Police Commander, Drug Enforcement Section; **Stan Holt**, Batesville Chief of Police; **Marc D. Kniola** DYS Program Director, Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services; **Kaarin Lueck**, Wayne County Public Defenders' Office; **Suzanne O'Malley**, Deputy Director Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council; **Lisa Rich**, Deputy Director of Services and Outcomes, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Jessica Skiba**, Injury Prevention Epidemiologist, Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention, Indiana State Department of Health; **Letecia Timmel**, Behavioral Health Services Provider, Otis R. Bowen Center for Human Services; **William G. Wooten**, MD, Evansville, IN.

Meetings. The Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force met on May 13, 2014.